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From: Bryan, David
Sent: Fri 10/21/2016 4:38:18 PM
Subject: Information

From St. Joseph News-Press –

A chemical incident at MGP Ingredients Friday morning caused evacuations and respiratory injuries throughout Atchison, Kansas.

An all clear was issued about 10:40 a.m. Friday following an incident at 8:02 a.m. when two chemicals were inadvertently mixed, creating a gaseous plume, said Atchison City Manager Trey Cocking. The incident happened at the company's sewage facility, he said.

Minor injuries involving respiratory issues were reported. Cocking said there were 18 injuries, but a spokeswoman at Atchison Hospital said 27 people had been treated there.

Joey Austin, media/community relations coordinator at Mosaic Life Care, said patients were treated in the emergency room of the St. Joseph hospital as well.

The plume covered a large area of the city and created a thick fog and chlorine-like smell in the area. The fog began to dissipate after about an hour, Cocking said. There was no fire or explosion, he said.

Atchison schools, including Benedictine College, were evacuated and closed Friday following the incident, but students were allowed to return later in the morning.

In the hours after the incident, people were asked to evacuate the areas north of MGP, and residents throughout the city were requested to stay indoors, close all windows and turn off air and furnaces. Roads in and out of the city, including U.S. Highways 59 and 73 and Kansas Highway 7 were closed for a time also.

Cocking said hazmat protocols were followed after the accident and a foam was used to clean up the chemicals.

MGP Ingredients is a supplier of premium distilled spirits and specialty wheat proteins and starches.

Distilled spirits include bourbon and rye whiskeys, gins and vodkas. MGP additionally is a producer of high-quality industrial alcohol for use in both food and non-food applications.

The company is headquartered in Atchison, where distilled alcohol products and food ingredients are produced.

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